

Minutes – November 21, 2011

New Hampshire

State Board of Education

Minutes of the November 21, 2012 Meeting

AGENDA ITEM V. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

A. Renewal of Virtual Learning Academy Charter School (VLACS) – Chairman Raffio said that as outlined within the October 10, 2012 letter from the Attorney General’s Office to the House Education Committee, the State Board lacks the legal authority to grant applications and bind the State to expend funds that have not yet been appropriated. The State Board, however, does have the authority to grant renewal applications from previously approved charter schools. Because the State Board has already entered approved charter status with each existing charter school, it may only revoke/deny renewal of the charter if the charter school has failed to meet or exceed “the objective academic test results or standards and goals as set forth in its application” pursuant to RSA 194-B:16, VI; or following the Department’s evaluation, the Board determines that the school has not demonstrated any of the following: (a) progress toward meeting the Mission of the charter school, (b) evidence of the responsible use of public funds, (c) evidence of student attainment of expected knowledge and skills, and (d) indicators of purposeful planning for the school’s sustainability.

Moreover, these schools are already accounted for in the budget process. Richard Ayers, Team Leader of the Visitation Team, reported to the Board. The renewal of a charter school is an established process that requires the conducting of an on-site evaluation of the school by a team of qualified educators in accordance with New Hampshire RSA 194-B:10. The statute requires a program audit for the renewal of the charter school for a five year period that determines the attainment of academic, financial and organizational goals as declared in the school’s charter application. The on-site visitation on October 3, 2012 was conducted in accordance with the requirements for charter renewal to include validation of attainment of the school’s standards and operational procedures established in the original charter school application, and to provide evidence of sustaining academic performance and the responsible use of public funds. Following the renewal site visitation, a draft report was prepared with the collective notations of the visiting team members and shared with VLACS’s administration for review. After incorporating any factual corrections in the report, the visiting team endorsed the final report before submitting it to the Department for review and forwarding to the Board. Steve Kossakoski, CEO of VLACS, presented a power point presentation.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by John Rist, that the State Board of Education authorizes the renewal of the Virtual Learning Academy Charter School.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.